



# OSTA

Ottawa Student  
Transportation  
Authority

## Moving Forward, Together

### OSTA Hazard Zone Criteria and Assessment Methodology

Public Consultation Meetings

April 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10, 2012

## Purpose

- To identify potential temporary and/or permanent hazards which may be encountered by students walking to school within policy defined eligibility distances
- To establish eligibility for bus services should absolute or combination bus warrants exist according to approved point thresholds

## Responsibility

- Ultimate decision about safety of any route is up to parents
- Parents need to decide whether their child is able to walk alone, or if s/he should be accompanied by another responsible person

## Site Visits and Evaluation

- Sites may include multiple schools and overlapping walk zones
- Assessments to be conducted 30 minutes prior to morning or afternoon bell times  
*Note: as a result of consultation, we will be eliminating afternoon traffic counts and doing all in AM*
- Hazard zone reviews must be completed during the school year

## Evaluation – Point Thresholds

- **Absolute warrant**
  - Crossing multi-lane road with high speeds and/or heavy traffic
  - 2-lane roundabout
  - High collision area
  - High speed corridor with narrow or no shoulder
- **Combination warrant**
- **Student Grade Differential**
  - JK to Gr 3 = 60 points (or more warrants busing)
  - Gr 4 to Gr 8 = 100 points (or more warrants busing)
- **GM may override point thresholds to warrant busing under extenuating circumstances**

# Standard Hazard Criteria and Assessment Methodology

## **Stage A - Site Visit**

- Maps of walk zone, housing, infrastructure
- Draw potential preferred walk route
- Identify areas impacted by existing hazards
- Multiple forms to collect data, including (but not restricted to)
  - Speed limits
  - Traffic volumes (number of cars)
  - Collision data
  - Type of corridor (collector, major collector, artery)
  - Type of intersection (uncontrolled, signalized, roundabouts)
  - Separation from traffic (shoulder, sidewalks, medians)
  - Mitigation (adult crossing guards, pedestrian signals)

## Standard Hazard Criteria and Assessment Methodology

### **Stage B – Evaluation**

- Assign points to various elements
- May be individual warrant for busing or combination warrant

### **Stage C – Reporting**

- One page report on findings
- Green Communities Canada
- List potential mitigation strategies (not an exhaustive list)
  - Additional Signage
  - Traffic light timing adjustment
  - Request for adult crossing guards

## Appeals

- Parents and/or other representative may appeal a hazard zone review according to the established appeal process
- The GM's decision is final
- Review of appeal will be based on the following:
  - A) The established process was not followed correctly
  - B) There is a new hazard identified which was not assessed previously
  - C) There is an error in the original assessment
  - D) There are extenuating circumstances (proceed with appeal at GM's discretion)



## Timeline

- Hazard Zone Reviews will be underway in spring/summer of 2012
- Application in mapping to be completed by December 2012
- Maps/directions for preferred walking route will be available per school as of winter 2013
- Full implementation for 2013-2014 school year



# Questions?